

What is Asbestos?

Asbestos is the generic term for a group of naturally occurring, fibrous minerals with high tensile strength, flexibility, and resistance to heat, chemicals, and electricity.



Asbestos was a popular component in commercial products from the early 1900's to the 1970's and is found in building construction materials such as:

- sprayed-on fireproofing
- sprayed-on or textured ceiling material
- pipe and boiler insulation
- floor tiles
- cement pipe and "siding" panels
- roofing felts and shingles
- ceiling tiles
- drywall joint compounds
- acoustical products

Unlike most minerals, asbestos breaks up into fine, light fibers invisible to the naked eye that can only be seen under a microscope.

Intact and undisturbed asbestos-containing material (ACM) usually does not pose a health risk. Asbestos becomes a problem when the fibers are released into the air because of damage, disturbance, or deterioration over time.

CAUTION
ASBESTOS
-HAZARDOUS-
DO NOT DISTURB
WITHOUT PROPER
TRAINING & EQUIPMENT

What are the dangers of asbestos exposure?

Asbestos fibers enter the body when a person inhales or ingests airborne particles that can become embedded in the tissues of the respiratory or digestive systems.

Exposure to asbestos can cause disabling or fatal diseases like:

- asbestosis, an emphysema-like condition
- lung cancer
- mesothelioma, a cancerous tumor that spreads rapidly in the cells of membranes covering the lungs and body organs
- gastrointestinal cancer.

The symptoms of these diseases generally do not appear for 20 or more years after initial exposure.



What Regulations Apply?

Apply?

The Clean Air Act (CAA) requires the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop and enforce regulations to protect the general public from exposure to airborne contaminants that are known to be hazardous to human health.

In accordance with Section 112 of the CAA, the EPA established National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) to protect the public. In 1971 EPA identified asbestos as a hazardous pollutant and in 1973 promulgated the Asbestos NESHAP regulations.

The purpose of the asbestos NESHAP is to protect the public health by minimizing the release of asbestos when facilities containing ACM are demolished or renovated.

EPA delegates the enforcement of the asbestos NESHAP to state and local air agencies. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's Division of Air Pollution Control is responsible for enforcing these regulations for the State of Tennessee.



What is the responsibility of a demolition contractor or property owner if demolition or renovation is considered?

Find out if asbestos material is present in the facility. Tennessee law requires building owners or contractors to thoroughly inspect a facility considered for demolition or renovation for asbestos containing materials prior to starting the activity.



What types of buildings are affected?

A "facility" includes any commercial, institutional, industrial, and public building, and any structure, installation or building containing condominiums, or individual dwelling units operated as a residential cooperative. A single family dwelling having four or fewer dwelling units is exempt unless it has been used for non-residential purposes, or if there is more than one to be demolished for a larger project (e.g. highway expansion, shopping center, or any larger commercial development).

When is asbestos material required to be removed before demolition?

Regulated asbestos containing material (RACM) must be removed by a licensed asbestos contractor if a facility contains quantities of at least 260 linear feet on pipes, or at least 160 square feet on other facility components, or at least 35 cubic feet on components where length or area could not be previously measured.

RACM means:

1. Friable asbestos (e.g. pipe insulation and sprayed on material),
2. Category I nonfriable ACM (e.g. floor tiles, sheet flooring, and roofing) that has become friable,
3. Category I nonfriable ACM that will be or has been subjected to sanding, grinding, cutting, or abrading, or
4. Category II nonfriable ACM (e.g. cementitious material) must be removed if it has a high probability of being crumbled, pulverized, or reduced to powder.

Where can asbestos material be disposed?

Contact the Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste Management at 1-888-891-TDEC (8332) for the nearest permitted facility that can receive asbestos waste.

Notification Requirements

A Notification of Demolition or Asbestos Renovation (Form CN-1055) is required 10 days prior to asbestos renovation or demolition activity.

Notification is required for demolition even if there is no asbestos present in the building.

If a facility is being demolished under the order of a state or local government agency because it is structurally unsound and in danger of imminent collapse, notification is required as early as possible before, but not later than, the following working day.

A copy of the order must accompany the notification.

Notification forms can be obtained by contacting the Division of Air Pollution Control at 615-532-0554 or www.tdec.net/apc

Disclaimer

This brochure is meant as an overview of the Tennessee asbestos regulations regarding demolition and renovation. It is the responsibility of property owners and demolition contractors to be aware of all state and federal regulations before commencing any demolition or renovation activity. Noncompliance will subject a regulated entity to potential enforcement action. The regulations allow for a penalty of up to \$25,000 per day for each violation.

Contact Information

Department of Environment & Conservation
Air Pollution Control
401 Church Street
9th Floor, L&C Annex
Nashville, TN 37243-1531
615-532-0554
www.tdec.net/apc

For Demolition and Renovation activities in one of Tennessee's Metropolitan Areas, contact the appropriate local air agency below:

Chattanooga – Hamilton County
(423) 668-2567

Knoxville – Knox County
(865) 215-5900

Memphis – Shelby County
(901) 544-7775

Nashville – Davidson County
(615) 340-5653

Fees and additional permitting requirements may apply in these areas.

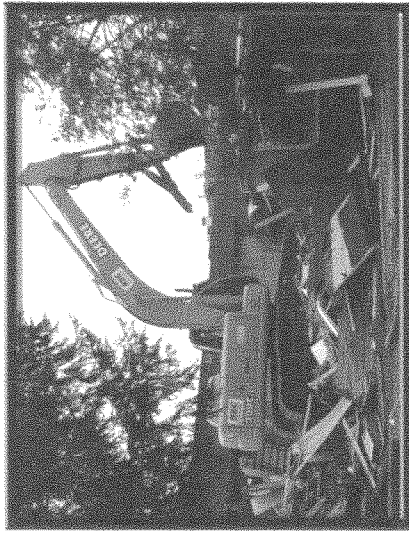


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Building Demolition And Asbestos Renovation



Tennessee Asbestos NESHAP Program